INFORMATION LETTER

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CANNING CROPS

Summary of September 1st Reports by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Following are excerpts from reports by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on truck crops for manufacture, based upon condition and other data as of September 1st:

Active operations continue among processors, who generally have an abundant supply of late vegetables for commercial manufacture. Through the cooperation of the nation's commercial canners reporting to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on September 1 conditions, the following significant details about 1937 pack possibilities are set forth.

First, a record-production of snap beans and sweet corn is in prospect from the large acreages planted to these crops in 1937.

Second, an evaluation of canners' reports on the acreage and production of green peas in the light of data compiled since the consummation of the packing season is the basis for the preliminary estimate of 260,080 tons of canning peas in 1937. Based on the tonnages now estimated for canning in each State and reports on the average number of cases obtained per ton, it appears the 1937 pack will total around 23,500,000 cases containing 24 No. 2 cans. In addition to this quantity of canned peas, the tonnage estimated will provide for not less than 7,000 tons of green peas utilized for freezing and additional amounts for soups and other utilization.

Third, the prospects for a record tomato crop continue to grow less promising as the season advances. The September 1 indicated production of 1,828,300 tons is a decline of nearly 9 per cent from the record-production in prospect on August 15.

Fourth, lima beans may be added to the list of canning crops producing record or near-record packs in 1937.

Snap Beans

The tonnage of snap beans of 100,400 tons indicated by canners' September 1 reports is about 2 per cent less than was in prospect on August 15. The crop now indicated exceeds the 1936 estimated production by 31 per cent and the 5-year (1928-32) average production by about 37 per cent. It surpasses the previous record-production of 92,300 tons estimated for 1929 by nearly 9 per cent. The September 1 indicated yield of 1.57 tons per acre compares with 1.52 tons estimated for 1936 and 1.58 tons, the average for the 10-year (1923-32) period. The crop growing in Wisconsin, Michigan, and New York encountered a spell of dry weather late in July which extended through August. Prospects were lowered, particularly in Wisconsin, where drought conditions have been acute. In other important States, widely scattered, the late August decline in prospects has been nearly offset by favorable conditions, particularly in some of the western areas.

Green Lima Beans

A record production of 25,660 tons of green lima beans for manufacture, including freezing, is pointed to by September 1 reports. This production exceeds the previous record-production of 20,140 tons estimated for 1936 by 27 per cent and is over twice the average production of 12,620 tons secured during the 4-year (1929-32) period. The yield indicated by September 1 reports is 1,125 pounds per acre. The yield estimated for 1936 is 1,230 pounds and for the 4-year (1929-32) period yields averaged 988 pounds per acre. This year's prospects are better than average in all important States except Wisconsin, where the dry weather of August seriously curtailed production indications.

Sweet Corn

A sweet corn production of 1,098,700 tons is indicated by September 1 reports. This compares with 606,700 tons estimated for 1936, when drought conditions were severe in the important corn producing States. It far surpasses the 5-year (1928-32) average production of 628,000 tons and is somewhat above the previous record-production of 1,014,100 tons estimated for 1925. The yield prospects indicated by September 1 conditions of 2.43 tons per acre stand out in

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A. A. A. PROGRAM FOR 1938

Plans Provide for Acreage Goals for Soil-Depleting Crops

Plans for the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Act for the 1938 crop season were considered at a conference in Washington on September 14 to 16, at which State A. A. A. committee chairmen and representatives of the agricultural extension departments from every State met with officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in a series of executive sessions.

The program reported to have been approved sets up national "acreage goals" for soil-depleting crops such as cotton, corn and tobacco, and a national objective for soil-building practices. The acreage goals for the various soil-depleting crops will be subdivided into State, county, and individual farm goals. Maximum benefit payments, to be calculated for each farm, will be made for keeping within the soil-depleting crop goal and for maintaining a sufficient acreage in soil-conserving crops. If the acreage goal for soil-depleting crops is exceeded, or there is failure to reach the soil-building goal, the amount of the benefit payments will be reduced.

It is understood that the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will issue a comprehensive statement on the conference within the next few days and that this will be followed by a more formal publication relating to the administration of next year's program.

Modifications of the Agricultural Adjustment Act are expected to be proposed at the next session of Congress, but it is understood that the conference just closed took no action with reference to legislative recommendations.

CANNING CROPS

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marked contrast to the drought year of 1936, when estimated yields dropped to 1.63 tons per acre—the lowest on record. The current season's indicated yield also exceeds the 10-year (1923-32) average yield of 2.13 tons per acre, and it has not been exceeded since 1926, when estimated yields were 2.57 tons per acre. Growers who have encountered trouble from the recent spell of dry weather are located mostly in the States of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio. The decline in prospects in these States has been more than offset by improvements in other important States.

Kraut Cabbage

A production of 176,500 tons of cabbage for sauerkraut is indicated by kraut packers' September 1 reports to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The production estimated for 1936 was 114,800 tons and for the 5-year (1928-32) period the average production was 165,700 tons. The yield indicated by September 1 reports is 8.02 tons per acre. The yield for 1936 was 6.10 tons, and for the 10-year (1923-32) period an average of 9.48 tons per acre was secured. The 1937 yield prospects have been curtailed by hot, dry weather and heavy insect infestation late in August in many important northern States.

The total of 176,500 tons indicated for 1937 includes tonnage of kraut cabbage expected from the contract and open-market acreages. Allowance was made for the open-market acreage and tonnage according to the past relationship between contract and open-market tonnages and in line with packers' previous reports on the percentage of the total kraut cabbage requirements which they expect to obtain by purchase on the open market in 1937.

State	Acreage Harvested Planted 1936	1937	Production Indicated 1936	1937
	Acres	*Acres*	*Tons*	*Tons*
New York	7,200	7,300	52,600	75,900
Ohio	1,550	1,750	12,900	11,600
Indiana	1,000	1,400	5,500	11,500
Illinois	800	800	2,600	5,300
Michigan	1,000	1,300	5,700	10,100
Wisconsin	3,650	5,500	16,800	36,300
Minnesota	150	200	500	1,600
Colorado	150	200	1,600	2,100
Washington	330	400	3,000	3,400
Other States *	2,980	3,150	13,600	18,700
Total	18,810	22,000	114,800	176,500

* "Other States" include Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Peas

The preliminary 1937 estimated production of 260,080 tons of green peas for manufacture exceeds the 1936 estimated production of 187,670 tons by about 39 per cent. Based on the tonnages now estimated for canning in each State and reports on the average number of cases obtained per ton, it appears that the 1937 pack will total around 23,500,000 cases containing 24 No. 2 cans. In addition to this quantity of canned peas, the tonnage estimated for 1937 will provide for not less than 7,000 tons of green peas for "quick freezing" and additional amounts for soups and other utilization.

The revised estimate of acreage planted in 1937 is 344,330 acres. The preliminary estimate of acreage harvested is 327,050 tons. The difference between planted and harvested acreage represents the acreage from which it is estimated no peas were harvested. The estimated yield for 1937 is 1,590 pounds per acre, which compares with an estimated 1936 yield of 1,264 pounds per acre.

Pimientos

September 1 reports from pimiento canners in California and Georgia indicate a production of 19,020 tons for 1937. The estimated production for 1936 was 13,880 tons, and for the 5-year (1928-32) period the production averaged 15,000 tons. Dry conditions have detracted from yield prospects in Georgia, but in California the indicated yield of September 1 is about normal.

Tomatoes

The production of 1,828,300 tons of tomatoes for commercial manufacture, indicated on September 1, is a decline of nearly 9 per cent from the estimate of August 15. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics points out the tonnage now in prospect is about 8 per cent less than the record-production of 1,987,500 tons harvested in 1936 but exceeds the 5-year (1928-32) average production of 1,293,200 tons by over 40 per cent.

Heavy rains, coupled with hot weather during the last ten days of August, caused tomatoes to scald, crack and rot in many fields in the Middle Atlantic States. In western New York and Ohio, dry weather in spotted areas has reduced yield prospects. Excessively high temperatures in Indiana and the Ozarks have also caused considerable damage to the crop. In the Western States, prospects have generally shown a little improvement during the past two weeks.

Cold Storage Holdings of Fishery Products

Cold storage holdings of fisheries products in the United States on August 15 were 13 per cent less than a year ago, but 11 per cent greater than the five-year average, according to the Bureau of Fisheries. Holdings on August 15 amounted to 66,209,000 pounds, compared with 76,076,000 pounds on August 15, 1936, and the five-year average of 59,410,000 pounds. During the month ended August 15, 16,873,000 pounds of fishery products were frozen, compared with 23,145,000 pounds frozen in the corresponding period of 1936.

Temperature and Rainfall Records

The following table gives the average temperature and total rainfall for the principal crop growing districts for each of the last two weeks, as shown by the U. S. Weather Bureau reports for selected stations in these districts:

District	Week ended Sept. 7, 1937 Temp.	Rain	Week ended Sept. 14, 1937 Temp.	Rain
Maine	70	.1	62	3.3
Western New York	72	.6	60	.9
Tri-States	78	.7	68	.0
South Central Ohio	76	2.1	67	.0
Central Indiana	74	.2	66	2.4
Central Illinois	76	.0	67	.8
Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin	72	3.2	65	.9
Southern Minnesota	71	.0	65	.4
Northern Colorado	72	.4	68	.0
Northern Utah	75	.0	73	.0
Northwestern Washington	63	.9	65	.0
Southeastern Washington	66	.3	74	.0

Rural Retail Sales in August

Daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas for August were about 3 per cent higher in dollar volume than for August, 1936, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, based on rural chain store and mail-order sales. Sales increased 8 per cent from July to August, or less than the usual seasonal amount. Total sales for the first eight months of the year were about 11½ per cent above those for the same period of 1936.

Indexes Relating to Sale of Canned Foods

The following indexes taken from the published reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate the recent changes in wholesale and retail prices. For retail prices they are based on the average for 1923-25 as 100 per cent, while for wholesale prices 1926 is taken as 100 per cent.

Wholesale prices

	Sept. 4, 1937	Aug. 28, 1937	Sept. 5, 1936	Sept. 7, 1935	Sept. 8, 1934
All commodities	86.4	86.5	80.9	80.4	77.8
All foods	85.7	85.3	82.2	85.9	77.2

Retail prices

	Aug. 17, 1937	July 13, 1937	Aug. 18, 1936	Aug. 15, 1932
All foods	85.5	85.9	84.0	67.1
Fresh fruits and vegetables	58.0	67.0	74.0	55.1
Canned fruits and vegetables	82.7	83.5	80.4	70.1

RETORT THERMOMETERS

Proper Installation Necessary to Ensure Accurate Temperature Control

It is well recognized in the industry that in processing non-acid canned foods every precaution should be taken to keep between two extremes. The process must, of course, be sufficient to destroy the spores of bacteria that might otherwise be injurious to health and also to destroy the spores of such spoilage bacteria as are present. On the other hand, an unnecessarily high process temperature is prejudicial to the appearance and flavor of many non-acid canned foods. It is therefore important that the retort thermometer be so installed that it will indicate accurately the temperature at the center of the retort. This is generally understood by canners and also by manufacturers of canning equipment. However, only a few days ago a canner in installing a new retort found that the thermometer pocket was not provided with a bleeder and it was necessary for him to install a suitable petcock.

In the introduction to Bulletin 26-L (page 12) attention is called to the fact that appropriate retort equipment includes "a ⅛-inch bleeder in each thermometer well or pocket." Under "Installation of Equipment," attention is called to the fact that the bleeder "should emit steam to the outside atmosphere continuously and freely during the processing period." In the same paragraph, installation of thermometers in the door or shell of the retort is also discussed as follows: "If a thermometer is installed in the door or in the shell of the retort, the bulb should project for at least two-thirds of its length into the principal chamber of the retort. The steam in the chamber must have free access, however, to the remaining third of the bulb."

Tariff Commission Report on Salmon

A report dealing with the importation of salmon and other fish and the effect of such importation on their production in the United States has been issued by the United States Tariff Commission as Report No. 121, second series. This report was made by the Commission in response to Senate Resolution 165, dated February 1, 1934. Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents each.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

	Week ending—			Season total to—	
Vegetables	Sept. 11 1936	Sept. 11 1937	Sept. 4 1937	Sept. 11 1936	Sept. 11 1937
Beans, snap and lima	12	6	5	7,990	8,088
Tomatoes	480	573	429	20,117	19,358
Green peas	119	123	117	6,652	6,362
Spinach	11	27	5	7,499	8,168
Others:					
Domestic, competing directly	1,578	1,957	1,687	83,039	83,354
Imports, competing indirectly	29	10	2	47	21
Fruits					
Citrus, domestic	1,634	1,255	1,091	126,588	134,409
Imports	42	33	51	290	247
Others, domestic	2,692	3,544	4,683	42,820	34,651

Trade Commission's Rule on Reports Amended

An amendment of its rule relating to the filing of reports of compliance with its orders has been announced by the Federal Trade Commission, the amendment providing that the Commission shall have discretionary authority to call at any time for reports as to the manner and form in which its orders are being complied with. Rule 22 as amended and now in force is as follows, the new language being in italics:

"In every case where an order is issued by the Commission for the purpose of preventing violations of the law, the respondent or respondents therein named shall file with the Commission, within the time specified in said order, a report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which respondent or respondents have complied with the said order of the Commission. *Within its sound discretion the Commission may require any such respondent or respondents from time to time thereafter, to file further reports in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which they are complying with the said order.*

"Reports of compliance shall be signed, in ink, by respondent or attorney for respondent."

CORN EAR WORM AND BORER

Occurrence in Late August as Reported to the U. S. Bureau of Entomology

Occurrence of corn ear worm and European corn borer during the latter part of August as observed by entomologists in various States reporting to the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, is summarized in the following notes appearing in the September 1st issue of the Bureau's Insect Pest Survey:

CORN EAR WORM:

New York.—Many sweet corn growers are experiencing heavy losses in Westchester County.

New Jersey.—This species is very seriously damaging late sweet corn in Morganville, Monmouth County.

Ohio.—While injury was very severe to early maturing sweet corn and to early tomatoes, its presence in mid-season corn is not much above average. Heavy infestation is looked for in late sweet corn.

Indiana.—The second brood has been very abundant, attacking corn, but the infestation in tomatoes by this brood has been negligible except where they adjoin cornfields. The third brood is just appearing and is showing up slightly more on tomatoes than the second brood. Infestations in sweet corn at Lafayette have been from 20 to 50 per cent, with the majority of worms nearly full grown. Infestations in field corn averaged 10 to 20 per cent.

Illinois.—To date the corn ear worm has been only moderately abundant, though a heavy late brood is developing.

Missouri.—While most fields of corn show heavy infestation, sweet corn at Columbia is much less severely infested than one might have expected from the severe infestation in the tassels of corn earlier and in early tomatoes. At present very few worms are showing up in tomatoes in central Missouri.

Utah.—Moths are found in small numbers at trap lights in northern Utah. Damage to sweet corn is rather heavy in northern Utah.

Nevada.—Damage to sweet corn seems to be decidedly less than a year ago.

CORN BORER:

Virginia.—This has been a very favorable year for the development of the European corn borer on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The second generation of borers has done considerable damage in some fields of early corn. One stalk was dissected which contained 30 full-grown larvae or pupae. Moths of the third generation are now in flight and over 350 eggs have been counted on some plants. A great many plants in a field of corn near Onley have over 100 eggs now and eggs are still being deposited.

FLORIDA VEGETABLE INDUSTRY

Analysis of Status Before and After Cuban Trade Agreement

A report on the Florida winter vegetable industry and the trade agreement with Cuba has been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in which is presented available information concerning the planted and harvested commercial acreage of vegetables in Florida, the yield per acre, production, farm prices, farm income, and the comparative periods and volume of shipments of vegetables from Florida and Cuba during the last six seasons—the three seasons preceding the agreement and the three seasons following it. The report covers the six more important Florida vegetables comparable with those on which duty reductions were made and on which data are available—tomatoes, green beans, new potatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and eggplant.

In the reciprocal trade agreement with Cuba, concluded on September 3, 1934, the United States made seasonal reductions from pre-agreement duties, these reductions amounting to 25 per cent in the case of tomatoes, peppers and squash, and 50 per cent on the other items. The reductions were limited to the winter and spring when supplies of domestic fresh vegetables are smallest.

The Bureau summarizes the principal facts brought out in the report as follows:

TREND IN ACREAGE

The combined acreage planted in Florida to the six vegetables under consideration has increased substantially since the trade agreement with Cuba came into effect. This is true with respect to southern Florida as well as the State as a whole.

In the three seasons since the agreement, the combined area devoted to the six vegetables in Florida averaged about 156,000 acres. The area reached a peak of 164,000 acres in 1936-37, as compared with an average of approximately 123,000 acres during the three pre-agreement seasons. The acreage planted to each of the four leading crops, tomatoes, green beans, potatoes, and peppers, averaged higher for the three post-agreement seasons than for the three pre-agreement seasons. The acreage planted to cucumbers averaged about the same for the two periods. The area planted to eggplant, the least important of the six vegetables, accounting for but little more than 1 per cent of their combined farm value in 1936-37, decreased in the post-agreement seasons.

The combined harvested acreage of these six vegetables in Florida was considerably smaller than the planted acreage, primarily because of unfavorable weather conditions. But even the harvested acreage averaged 20 per cent higher in the last three seasons than in the three previous seasons. All of the increase in harvested acreage occurred in south Florida, where the increase averaged 34 per cent. In the balance of the State the harvested acreage declined 11 per cent.

In the case of tomatoes, the crop in which the most interest has been shown from the point of view of Cuban competition, the planted acreage increased steadily throughout this period, from a low of 25,000 acres in 1931-32 to a peak of nearly 45,000 acres in 1936-37. The acreage planted to tomatoes in the State of Florida averaged 40,900 acres in the three post-agreement seasons, or 36 per cent more than during the three pre-agreement seasons. Because of unfavorable weather conditions, particularly in southern Florida, the tomato acreage harvested in Florida was considerably lower than the acreage planted in 1935-36 and 1936-37. Nevertheless, the harvested acreage, including small acreages for canning, averaged 36,100 acres during the three post-agreement seasons, an increase of about 32 per cent over the 27,400 acres harvested during the three pre-agreement seasons.

Trend in Production

In spite of the increase in the planted and harvested acreage of the six vegetables under consideration in Florida, combined production in the post-agreement period averaged about 8 per cent less than in the pre-agreement period. This reduction resulted from lower yields per acre caused by the less favorable growing conditions prevailing in the last three years. The average yield of tomatoes, which was approximately 95 bushels per acre in three pre-agreement seasons, declined to 88 bushels in 1934-35 as a result of frost damage, and to 76 bushels in 1935-36 and to 56 bushels in 1936-37 because of excessive rain and insect damage.

Nearly three-fourths of the decline in total vegetable production in Florida in the last three seasons, as compared with the three pre-agreement seasons, was accounted for by the decline in production of snap beans, the duty on which has not been reduced. Production of snap beans averaged 13 per cent lower, whereas production of other winter vegetables as a group averaged 4 per cent less.

Farm Prices and Income

The farm prices received by Florida growers for each of the six vegetable crops covered in this report have averaged higher for the three seasons following the agreement than for the three pre-agreement seasons. Furthermore, although yields were affected adversely by unfavorable weather or insect damage in certain cases, the total income from each of the major crops—tomatoes, green beans and potatoes—averaged substantially higher during the three post-agreement seasons. In the case of peppers, while prices averaged slightly higher in the last three years, the farm income averaged somewhat lower because of reduced production. Prices and farm income from cucumbers averaged considerably higher during the three post-agreement seasons than during the three pre-agreement seasons. Income from eggplant, the least important of the six crops, was lower because of reduced acreage and production, although prices averaged higher than in the pre-agreement seasons.

Shipments from Florida and Cuba

Shipments of the six vegetables from Florida by rail and boat declined from an average of 21,474 cars in the three seasons prior to the Cuban agreement to an average of 19,669 cars in the last three seasons. This represents a decline of 8 per cent, or the same percentage by which production declined. The carlot totals do not include shipments by truck to other States, which may have increased somewhat in recent years. It is of interest to note that if green beans are deducted, total carlot shipments from Florida of the remaining vegetables were about the same in both periods, despite the fact that combined production of these remaining vegetables declined 4 per cent. Practically all of the beans shipped from Florida are snap beans on which no duty reductions were made. About two-thirds of the total shipments from Florida of the vegetables covered in this report originate in southern Florida.

Imports of the six vegetables from Cuba, in terms of carlots, increased from an average of 1,906 cars in the pre-agreement period to 3,063 cars in the post-agreement period, or an increase of 59 per cent. Average imports from countries other than Cuba show a decline of 8 per cent in the last three years, and in 1936-37 were still substantially smaller than the imports in the 1931-32 season.

The bulk of the shipments of these vegetables from Florida occurs after the periods of duty reductions. On the other hand, over three-fourths of the imports from Cuba arrive during the periods of reduced duties. During the six years covered by this report, the proportions of the vegetable crops shipped from Florida during the periods of reduced duty on Cuban vegetables were as follows: green peppers, 55 per cent; tomatoes, 24 per cent; eggplant, 20 per cent; potatoes, 13 per cent, and cucumbers, 5 per cent. The bulk of the shipments of green beans from Florida occurs during the months in which the reduced duties on Cuban lima beans are in effect, but as earlier indicated, snap beans make up virtually all of the Florida shipments, and are not subject to the duty reduction. The proportion of the total vegetable imports received from Cuba during the low-duty months increased from 73 per cent in the three-year period prior to the agreement to 81 per cent since the agreement.

The report, which includes detailed statistics and a number of charts, may be obtained from the Bureau, in Washington.

Cold Storage Stocks

The following table shows the holdings of certain fruits and vegetables in cold storage as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics:

	Aug. 1, 1937 *1,000 lbs.*	Sept. 1, 1937 *1,000 lbs.*
Frozen and preserved fruits:		
Strawberries	36,930	33,551
Blueberries	1,147	2,484
Cherries	23,127	26,853
Other fruits	54,202	58,451
Frozen vegetables:		
Peas	7,457	11,333
Beans, cut	1,473	1,771
Beans, lima	2,100	2,817
Corn	408	497
Spinach	811	738
Other vegetables	4,402	4,873

Red Pitted Cherry Pack

The pack of red pitted cherries in 1937 totaled 2,341,496 cases of all sizes, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. The following table shows the pack in 1937 as compared with 1936 and 1935, by groups of States by sizes of containers:

1937	No. 2 *Cases*	No. 10 *Cases*	Miscellaneous *Cases*	Total *Cases*
New York and Pa.	163,151	214,167	49,706	427,024
Mich., Wis., and Ohio	735,660	824,787	57,373	1,617,820
Western [a]	58,729	192,544	45,379	296,652
Total	957,540	1,231,498	152,458	2,341,496
1936				
New York and Pa.	101,291	86,660	11,098	199,049
Mich., Wis., and Ohio	569,082	432,941	15,706	1,017,729
Western [a]	87,687	130,559	15,311	233,557
Total	758,060	650,160	42,115	1,450,335
1935				
New York and Pa.	351,310	235,564	33,234	620,108
Mich., Wis., and Ohio	908,847	801,702	7,823	1,718,372
Western [a]	26,973	190,102	7,128	224,203
Total	1,287,130	1,227,368	48,185	2,562,683

[a] Includes Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Utah, and Washington.

New Jersey Inspection Service

New Jersey agricultural officials report for this season widespread voluntary grading of fruits and vegetables under official inspection, according to a note in "Marketing Activities," published by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. During the asparagus season, 12,850 loads of asparagus for canning and processing were inspected and certified as to grade. Whereas potato inspections covered only 400 cars last year, requests from growers and shippers indicate that this year more than 5,000 cars will be inspected.

National Safety Congress

The 26th National Safety Congress and Exposition will be held at Kansas City on October 11th-15th. There will be 125 separate meetings, a large safety exhibit, and many demonstrations and other features. The Food Section of the Congress will hold its meeting on Tuesday afternoon, October 12th, and Thursday afternoon, October 14th.

N. C. A. Membership List in Press

The Membership List of the National Canners Association, revised to September 13th, is now in press, and it is expected that copies will be mailed to all members within the coming week. As in earlier editions, the List will contain the names of all member firms, with information as to location of their head offices and factories, and symbols showing the products packed. A commodity index is included, by means of which the names of firms packing various products can be easily found.

Copies of the Membership List will later be furnished to the brokers', wholesale grocers', and chain store associations for distribution to their members.

RAPID DEHYDRATION PROCESS

Department of Agriculture Announces Discovery of a New Procedure

The rapid dehydration of vegetables is now possible as the result of a recent discovery by the U. S. Department of Agriculture working in cooperation with the Chemical Foundation, according to an announcement by the Department.

In the new process the vegetable is first exposed to the vapor of a chemical which causes it to become water-soaked. In this condition the juice is more easily pressed out—for immediate use or for concentration for future use, and the pressed residue dried for storage. Harmless chemicals found to be effective for this purpose are toluene, chloroform, ether, benzol, petrol ether, carbon tetrachloride, sulphur dioxide, and chlorine gases.

During the experiments, conducted by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, sliced sweet potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, beets, and green beans were exposed to the vapor of carbon tetrachloride. All were water-soaked at the end of one hour. The juice was then pressed out and amounted to from 50 to 85 per cent of the total weight of the raw vegetables.

The pressed residue of vegetables treated according to this process dries rapidly and thoroughly at relatively low temperatures. At room temperature the residue dried to equilibrium within 36 hours. This contrasts with the older and more costly process in which thin slices of untreated vegetables, particularly sweet potatoes, after long periods of air-drying still contain fresh tissue on the inside. The juice, concentrated to a sirup, and the pressed residue reduced to the air-dry condition will keep indefinitely for future use or manufacture.

It is believed that this process will provide a satisfactory method for storing fleshy plant materials like the potatoes without loss from rotting, freezing, respiration, moulding, and enzyme action. The process was discovered by Dr. E. F. Hopkins, Chemical Foundation appointee working in the laboratory of the new sweet potato starch plant at Laurel, Mississippi, while he and other chemists were searching for a method to prevent physical and chemical changes in the starch content of sweet potatoes while they are in storage.

A public service patent covering this new process has been applied for.

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